APPENDIX R

INTENTIONAL DESTRUCTIVE ACTS

THE PURPOSE OF THIS APPENDIX IS TO EVALUATE THE HUMAN HEALTH IMPACTS OF INTENTIONAL DESTRUCTIVE ACTS (IDAS) ALONG THE northern border. The term "IDA" is used to include intentional malevolent acts, intentional malicious acts, and acts of terrorism.

Introduction

In accordance with recent U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) guidance (DOE 2006), this appendix was developed to explicitly consider the potential impacts of intentional destructive acts (IDAs) along the U.S.-Canada border. A wide range of IDA scenarios — from the release of radiological or toxic chemical materials to the use of weaponry — can be postulated for the northern border. Each scenario involves an action by terrorists that affects buildings, roads, human health and safety, and wildlife along the northern border.

The amount of radiological or chemical material available for dispersal, the means of dispersing it to the environment, and the type of weaponry control the human-health impacts of an IDA. Other factors that affect the magnitude of these impacts include population density, distance to the population, and meteorology.

As with all American infrastructure, border-crossing stations and other locations along the border are potential targets of terrorist attacks or sabotage. If a fire, explosion, or chemical release occurs from a terrorist attack, such events could cause injury or death of workers. The risk to workers or the public from accidental or intentional actions by outside parties at border-crossing stations is low because public access is controlled by a fence and sites are monitored. It is "reasonably foreseeable," however, that terrorists will procure or assemble a weapon of mass destruction and attempt to bring it into the United States for use against a high-profile target.

REASONABLY FORESEEABLE INTENTIONAL DESTRUCTIVE ACTS

Reasonably foreseeable IDAs include the following:

FIRES CAUSED BY TERRORISTS OR VEHICULAR ACCIDENTS DURING INTERDICTIONS

Potential targets include ports of entry (POEs) and traffic checkpoints with possible damage to existing infrastructure, escaped fires leading to loss of vegetation, water, and air quality degradation, and injury to or fatality of wildlife. Effects on human health and safety due to fires caused by terrorists or vehicular accidents during interdictions are:

- Loss of human life; and,
- Personal injury or illness (respiratory illness, burns, etc.).

BOMB EXPLOSIONS

Potential targets include POEs, large population centers, urban areas, large public venues, highways, etc. Potential results include damage to existing infrastructure, loss of vegetation, water and air quality degradation, injury to or fatality of wildlife, traffic congestion or disruption, and socioeconomic impacts. Effects on human health and safety from bomb explosions are:

- Loss of human life;
- Personal injury or illness (loss of hearing, burns, etc.); and,
- Falling debris causing injury or death.

RELEASE OF AIRBORNE PATHOGENS

Potential targets include urban areas, large public venues, and centers of government. Potential results include water and air quality contamination along with the illness and fatality of wildlife. Effects on human health and safety from the release of airborne pathogens are:

- Loss of human life; and,
- Personal illness.

USE OF WEAPONRY (SHOOTINGS, AIRCRAFT CRASH, ETC.)

Potential targets include POEs and Border Patrol stations, urban areas, large public venues, and centers of government. Potential results include damage to existing infrastructure, water and air quality degradation, injury or fatality of wildlife, traffic congestion or disruption, socioeconomic impacts. Effects on human health and safety from use of weaponry are:

- Loss of human life; and,
- Personal injury.

CONTAMINATION OF WATER SUPPLY

Potential targets include large population centers and urban areas. Potential results are water quality contamination, vegetation loss, illness and fatality of wildlife, and public utility disruption. Effects on human health and safety from contamination of the water supply are:

- Loss of human life; and,
- Personal injury.

INTENTIONAL DESTRUCTIVE ACTS EMERGENCY PLANNING, RESPONSE, AND SECURITY

In the aftermath of the tragic events of September 11, 2001, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) continues to consider measures that minimize the risk and consequences of a terrorist attack. All CBP facilities, existing and proposed, offer unique features from a safeguards perspective: restricted access afforded by Federal land ownership, restricted airspace above the site, and access to a highly effective rapid-response security force. CBP will continue to identify safeguards, security measures, and design features that will further protect the population and CBP facilities from terrorist attack and other forms of sabotage.

CBP's existing preventive and mitigative measures (or procedural controls) against accidents or IDAs include:

- Use of manpower: intelligence gathering (CBP's own and partnerships); ground, air, and marine patrols; interdiction of cross-border violators and other suspects; canine teams; vehicle inspections; Forward Operating Bases; set-up of tactical checkpoints; and weapons and interdiction training for agents.
- Use of technology: personal radiation detectors and radiation isotope identification devices; remote video surveillance system and mobile surveillance system; underground sensors; Vehicle Cargo Inspection System (VACIS®); camera and radio systems; defensive weaponry for agents and guards; Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System; Advanced Passenger Information System; and chemical agent and radiological sensors.
- Use of infrastructure: fencing/barriers; and border-crossing stations.
- Other: proper disposal of confiscated dangerous materials; agricultural inspections; coordination with emergency responders (firefighters, EMS, law enforcement, construction workers, federal and state agencies, etc.); proper use of all methods and equipment; completion of all required training; maintenance of all technology and weaponry; and personal protective equipment.

A site-specific emergency response plan would be developed to address any local incidents. The plan would be coordinated with the local emergency response agencies and include training for first responders. Response measures to minimize risks and quickly contain any accidental release would also greatly reduce potential economic losses.